

Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) for families in the child welfare system

Benefit-cost estimates updated December 2014. Literature review updated April 2012.

Current estimates replace old estimates. Numbers will change over time as a result of model inputs and monetization methods.

The WSIPP benefit-cost analysis examines, on an apples-to-apples basis, the monetary value of programs or policies to determine whether the benefits from the program exceed its costs. WSIPP's research approach to identifying evidence-based programs and policies has three main steps. First, we determine "what works" (and what does not work) to improve outcomes using a statistical technique called meta-analysis. Second, we calculate whether the benefits of a program exceed its costs. Third, we estimate the risk of investing in a program by testing the sensitivity of our results. For more detail on our methods, see our [technical documentation](#).

Program Description: PCIT in child welfare populations has been successfully tested with addition of a group motivational component to increase engagement and success of the parent. As in standard PCIT, a therapist directly observes a parent and child through a one-way mirror, and provides direct coaching to the parent through a radio earphone. The focus is building the skills of the parent to more positively interact with the child and manage his or her behavior.

Benefit-Cost Summary

Program benefits		Summary statistics	
Participants	\$10,214	Benefit to cost ratio	\$11.55
Taxpayers	\$4,287	Benefits minus costs	\$16,731
Other (1)	\$3,395	Probability of a positive net present value	100 %
Other (2)	\$424		
Total	\$18,320		
Costs	(\$1,589)		
Benefits minus cost	\$16,731		

The estimates shown are present value, life cycle benefits and costs. All dollars are expressed in the base year chosen for this analysis (2013). The economic discount rates and other relevant parameters are described in our [technical documentation](#).

Detailed Monetary Benefit Estimates

Source of benefits	Benefits to				
	Participants	Taxpayers	Other (1)	Other (2)	Total benefits
From primary participant					
Crime	\$0	\$380	\$1,158	\$189	\$1,727
Labor market earnings (hs grad)	\$4,327	\$1,845	\$2,139	\$0	\$8,312
Child abuse and neglect	\$5,822	\$1,836	\$0	\$914	\$8,572
K-12 special education	\$0	\$137	\$0	\$68	\$205
Property loss (alcohol abuse/dependence)	\$1	\$0	\$2	\$0	\$3
Health care (illicit drug abuse/dependence)	\$64	\$88	\$95	\$44	\$291
Adjustment for deadweight cost of program	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$791)	(\$791)
Totals	\$10,214	\$4,287	\$3,395	\$424	\$18,320

We created the two "other" categories to report results that do not fit neatly in the "participant" or "taxpayer" perspectives. In the "Other (1)" category we include the benefits of reductions in crime victimization, the economic spillover benefits of improvement in human capital outcomes, and the benefits from private or employer-paid health insurance. In the "Other (2)" category we include estimates of the net changes in the value of a statistical life and net changes in the deadweight costs of taxation.

Detailed Cost Estimates

	Annual cost	Program duration	Year dollars	Summary statistics	
Program costs	\$2,440	1	2007	Present value of net program costs (in 2013 dollars)	(\$1,589)
Comparison costs	\$1,000	1	2007	Uncertainty (+ or - %)	10 %

Standard PCIT expenditures provided by Children's Administration (average reimbursement rate for families receiving PCIT in Washington in 2007). WSIPP estimate of additional motivational component costs calculated on extra therapist time required.

The figures shown are estimates of the costs to implement programs in Washington. The comparison group costs reflect either no treatment or treatment as usual, depending on how effect sizes were calculated in the meta analysis. The uncertainty range is used in Monte Carlo risk analysis, described in our [technical documentation](#).

Cumulative Net Cash Flows Over Time (Non-Discounted Dollars)



Meta-Analysis of Program Effects

Outcomes measured	Primary or secondary participant	No. of effect sizes	Treatment N	Unadjusted effect size (random effects model)		Adjusted effect sizes and standard errors used in the benefit-cost analysis					
						First time ES is estimated			Second time ES is estimated		
				ES	p-value	ES	SE	Age	ES	SE	Age
Child abuse and neglect	Primary	2	78	-0.718	0.001	-0.718	0.237	10	-0.718	0.237	17

Citations Used in the Meta-Analysis

- Chaffin, M., Silovsky, J.F., Funderburk, B., Valle, L.A., Brestan, E.V., Balachova, T., . . . Bonner, B.L. (2004). Parent-child interaction therapy with physically abusive parents: Efficacy for reducing future abuse reports. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 72*(3), 500-510.
- Chaffin, M., Funderburk, B., Bard, D., Valle, L.A., & Gurwitch, R. (2011). A combined motivation and parent-child interaction therapy package reduces child welfare recidivism in a randomized dismantling field trial. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 79* (1),84-95.

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